

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims (deleted text being struck through and added text being underlined):

1 1. (Original) A method of handling a call from a caller to a
2 communication device, the method comprising:
3 receiving the call;
4 determining if the communication device is in a privacy mode; and
5 if the communication device is in the privacy mode, completing the
6 call if a privacy mode code is entered by the caller.

1 2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising if the
2 communication device is in the privacy mode, routing the call to a message
3 system if no privacy mode code is entered by the caller.

1 3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the privacy mode code
2 is selected by a user of the communication device.

1 4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the communication
2 device is one of: a cellular telephone and a personal digital assistant.

1 5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the method is
2 performed by one of: a base station and a switch.

1 6. (Original) The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of
2 receiving a request from the communication device to place the
3 communication device in the privacy mode.

1 7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the request further
2 comprises:

3 a privacy mode message selected by a user of the communication
4 device and adapted to be provided to the caller prior to completing
5 the call; and

6 the privacy mode code selected by the user of the communication
7 device.

1 8. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of
2 receiving a request from the communication device to place the
3 communication device out of the privacy mode.

1 9. (Original) A method of handling a call from a caller to a
2 communication device, the method comprising:

3 receiving the call;
4 determining if the communication device is in a privacy mode; and
5 if the communication device is in the privacy mode, providing a
6 privacy mode message including a selected privacy override code to
7 the caller.

1 10. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising if the
2 communication device is in the privacy mode, completing the call if the
3 selected privacy override code is entered by the caller.

1 11. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising if the
2 communication device is in the privacy mode, routing the call to a message
3 system if no selected privacy override code is entered by the caller.

1 12. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the privacy mode
2 message is selected from a group of prerecorded messages.

1 13. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the privacy mode
2 message is recorded by a user of the communication device.

1 14. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the privacy override
2 code is selected by a user of the communication device.

1 15. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the communication
2 device is a cellular telephone or a personal digital assistant.

1 16. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the method is
2 performed by a base station or a switch.

1 17. (Original) The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of
2 receiving a request from the communication device to place the
3 communication device in the privacy mode.

1 18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the request further
2 comprises:

3 the privacy mode message selected by a user of the communication
4 device and adapted to be provided to the caller upon receiving the call; and
5 the privacy override code selected by the user of the communication
6 device.

1 19. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of
2 receiving a request from the communication device to place the
3 communication device out of the privacy mode.

1 20. (Original) A computer readable medium having instructions for
2 causing a computer to perform a method of handling a call from a caller to a
3 communication device, the method comprising:

4 receiving the call;

5 determining if the communication device is in a privacy mode; and

6 if the communication device is in the privacy mode, completing the

7 call if a predetermined code is entered by the caller.

1 21. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 20, further
2 comprising if the communication device is in the privacy mode, routing the
3 call to a message system if no predetermined code is entered by the caller.

1 22. (Original) A computer readable medium having instructions for
2 causing a computer to perform a method of handling a call from a caller to a
3 communication device, the method comprising:

4 receiving the call;

5 determining if the communication device is in a privacy mode; and

6 if the communication device is in the privacy mode, providing a

7 privacy mode message including a selected privacy override code to
8 the caller.

1 23. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 22, further
2 comprising if the communication device is in the privacy mode, completing
3 the call if the privacy override code is entered by the caller.

1 24. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 22, further
2 comprising if the communication device is in the privacy mode, routing the
3 call to a message system if no privacy override code is entered by the
4 caller.

1 25. (Original) A system for handling a call from a caller to a user of
2 a communication device, the system comprising:

3 a data entry device capable of receiving input to cause the
4 communication device to enter a privacy mode;

5 a memory capable of storing a privacy mode message, the privacy
6 mode message adapted to be provided to the caller prior to
7 completing the call to the user; and

8 a receiver capable of completing the call to the user if a privacy mode
9 code is entered by the caller.

1 26. (Original) The system of claim 25, further wherein the receiver is
2 capable of routing the call to a message system if no privacy mode code is
3 entered by the caller.

1 27. (Original) The system of claim 25, wherein the data entry device
2 is a telephone keypad.

1 28. (Original) The system of claim 25, wherein the privacy mode
2 code comprises at least one keystroke from the data entry device.

1 29. (Original) The system of claim 25, wherein the privacy mode
2 code is selected by the user of the communication device.

1 30. (Original) The system of claim 25, wherein the communication
2 device is one of: a cellular telephone and a personal digital assistant.

1 31. (Original) A system for handling a call from a caller to a user of
2 a communication device, the system comprising:
3 a data entry device capable of receiving input to cause the
4 communication device to enter a privacy mode; and
5 a memory capable of providing a privacy mode message including a
6 selected privacy override code to the caller prior to completing the
7 call to the user.

1 32. (Original) The system of claim 31, further comprising a receiver
2 capable of completing the call to the user if the selected privacy override
3 code is entered by the caller.

1 33. (Original) The system of claim 32, further wherein the receiver is
2 capable of routing the call to a message system if no selected privacy
3 override code is entered by the caller.

1 34. (Original) The system of claim 31, wherein the selected privacy
2 override code is provided by the user of the communication device.

1 35. (Original) A system for handling a call from a caller to a user of
2 a communication device, the system comprising:
3 a data entry device capable of receiving input to cause the
4 communication device to enter a privacy mode; and
5 a receiver capable of receiving the call to the communication device
6 and completing the call to the user only if an interrupt is received
7 from the caller.

1 36. (Original) The system of claim 35, wherein the interrupt is a
2 privacy mode code entered by the caller.

1 37. (Original) A system for handling a call from a caller to a user of
2 a communication device, the system comprising:

3 a receiver capable of receiving the call and a privacy mode code
4 entered by the caller;

5 a memory capable of storing a status indicating if the communication
6 device is in a privacy mode; and

7 a transmitter capable of completing the call to the user if the
8 communication device is in the privacy mode and the privacy mode
9 code is entered by the caller.

1 38. (Original) The system of claim 37, wherein the memory is further
2 capable of storing a message from the caller if the communication device is
3 in the privacy mode and no privacy mode code is entered by the caller.

1 39. (Original) The system of claim 37, wherein the memory is further
2 capable of storing a privacy mode message adapted to be provided to the
3 caller prior to completing the call to the user.

1 40. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 37, wherein the
2 receiver is further capable of receiving a request from the communication
3 device to place the communication device in the privacy mode.

1 41. (Original) The system of claim 40, wherein the request further
2 comprises:

3 a privacy mode message selected by a user of the communication
4 device and adapted to be provided to the caller prior to completing
5 the call to the user; and
6 the privacy mode code selected by the user of the communication
7 device.

1 42. (Original) The method of claim 40, wherein the receiver is
2 further capable of receiving a request from the communication device to
3 place the communication device out of the privacy mode.

1 43. (Original) The system of claim 37, wherein the communication
2 device is one of: a cellular telephone and a personal digital assistant.

Please add the following new claims:

1 44. (New) The method of claim 1 additionally comprising, if the
2 communication device is in the privacy mode, passing the call to a voice
3 messaging system if the privacy mode code is not entered by the caller, the
4 voice messaging system being capable of recording a message spoken by the
5 caller making the call.

1 45. (New) The method of claim 1 additionally comprising, if the
2 communication device is in the privacy mode, blocking completion of the
3 call until the privacy mode code is entered.

1 46. (New) The method of claim 1 additionally comprising, if the
2 communication device is in the privacy mode, preventing the communication
3 device from producing an incoming call signal if the privacy mode code is
4 not entered by the caller.

1 47. (New) The method of claim 1 additionally comprising, if the
2 communication device is in the privacy mode, preventing the communication
3 device from producing an incoming call signal for all calls for which the
4 caller does not enter the privacy mode code.

1 48. (New) The method of claim 1 additionally comprising, if the
2 communication device is in the privacy mode, requiring entry of the privacy
3 mode code by the caller before the communication device produces an
4 incoming call signal.

1 49. (New) The method of claim 1 additionally comprising
2 establishing for the communications device a normal mode of operation and
3 the privacy mode of operation.

1 50. (New) The method of claim 49 wherein the normal mode of
2 operation is characterized by producing an incoming call signal upon receipt
3 of the call, and the privacy mode is characterized by producing the incoming
4 call signal only if the caller has entered the privacy mode code.